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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
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0349

JULY 1, 1967, 10:39AM

MICROFILMED BY RM/R

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 83

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JULY 1 SESSION

REF: A) SAIGON 2259; B) SAIGON 76

1. NA MET MORNING JULY 1 TO HEAR REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND VOTE ON POSTING LISTS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR FIRST TIME. SESSION ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 85 DEPUTIES AND CHAIRED BY NA FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THONG. EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EXCITEMENT BOTH ON FLOR OF NA AND IN PRESS GALLERY WHEN VOTE TAKEN ON WHETHER TO POST NAME OF BIG MINH AND HIS RUNNING-MATE TRAN NGOC LIENG, DECORUM WAS GOOD AND DEBATE WELL GUIDED BY THONG. IN ALL, DEPUTIES AGREED TO POST 17 OUT OF 18 LISTS WHICH HAD FILED, INCLUDING SLATE OF GENERAL MINH. ONLY SLATE WHOSE DOSSIER ADJUDGED TO BE INCOMPLETE WAS THAT OF TRAN THUONG NHON AND NGUYEN VAN HUNG. THUS NO MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER WAS ELIMINATED DURING THIS PROCESS OF FIRST POSTING. A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THIS SESSION IS GIVEN BELOW.

2. SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN THANH VINH EXPLAINED THAT IN ALL DOSSIERS OF 19 SLATES HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE MEETING NIGHT OF JUNE 30. ONE SLATE'S PAPERS WERE SO INCOMPLETE THAT CASE WOULD NOT EVEN BE BROUGHT BEFORE ASSEMBLY. OF REMAINING 18 LISTS, COMMITTEE FOUND 15 TO BE COMPLETELY IN ORDER AND IN THREE CASES THERE WAS SOME DOUBT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Don Igeulberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
ENDORS. EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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3. NA THEN BEGAN CASE BY CASE REVIEW OF DOSSIERS. PROCEDURE APPLIED IN EACH CASE WAS TO HEAR REPORT BY COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR NGUYEN HUU CHUNG, THEN DEBATE AND FINALLY VOTE ON WHETHER TO POST NAMES OF SLATE CONCERNED FOR FIRST TIME.

4. CASE OF DUONG VAN MINH EVOKED MOST INTEREST. RAPPORTEUR NGUYEN HUU CHUNG EXPLAINED THAT CHIEF OF STATE THIEU HAD ADDRESSED LETTER TO NA STATING THAT ON JUNE 28 THE NATION'S RULING GENERALS HAD DECIDED NOT TO ALLOW GENERAL MINH TO RETURN TO VIET NAM FOR SECURITY REASONS. CHUNG REPORTED THAT COMMITTEE HAD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED NOT TO DISCUSS THIS LETTER SINCE ITS MISSION CONFINED TO RULING ON WHETHER MINH'S DOSSIER COMPLETE OR NOT.

5. CHUNG WENT ON TO SAY THAT COMMITTEE HAD FOUND ALL OF MINH'S DOCUMENTS IN ORDER EXCEPT DOSSIER LACKED CERTIFICATE ATTESTING THAT MINH'S MILITARY STATUS IN ORDER. HOWEVER, MINH'S FILE CONTAINS RECEIPT DATED

JUNE 24, 1967, FROM MOBILIZATION DIRECTORATE OF DEFENSE MINISTRY AS EVIDENCE THAT MINH HAD APPLIED FOR SUCH CERTIFICATE. COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT RECEIPT SUFFICIENT AND BY VOTE OF 12 IN FAVOR, ONE AGAINST AND ONE ABSTENTION DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO NA THAT MINH'S SLATE BE POSTED.

6. DEPUTY GIAP VAN THAP WAS FIRST TO SPEAK IN DEBATE WHICH FOLLOWED. THAT ARGUED THAT MINH HAD DONE NOTHING TO THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY AND THIS WAS NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR KEEPING HIM OUT OF COUNTRY. THAP FURTHER MAINTAINED THAT FORTHCOMING ELECTION PERIOD ONE DURING WHICH PERSONS OF MINH'S CALIBER SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO TEST THEIR STRENGTH AT THE POLLS. THAP URGED THAT NA PRESS GVN TO ALLOW MINH'S RETURN.

7. SIX DEPUTIES WHO SPOKE AFTER THAP TOOK GENERAL LINE THAT IT WAS NOT UP TO NA TO RULE ON MINH'S QUALIFICATIONS AT THIS TIME NOR WAS NA EMPOWERED TO ORDER THAT MINH BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO VN. THUS QUESTION SIMPLY WAS ONE OF DETERMINING WHETHER MINH'S FILE CONTAINS ALL OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

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NO DEPUTY SPOKE OUT AGAINST IDEA OF POSTING MINH'S NAME AND WHEN MATTER PUT TO VOTE THERE WERE 72 DEPUTIES IN FAVOR OF POSTING MINH'S SLATE.

8. OTHER CASES PROVOKED HARDLY ANY DISCUSSION AT ALL. AFTER VERY LITTLE DEBATE 84 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING NAMES OF PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN.

9. 82 DEPUTIES VOTED TO APPROVE POSTING OF HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN DINH.

10. SLATE OF HOANG CO BINH AND LIEU QUANG KHINH RECEIVED 77 VOTES IN FAVOR OF POSTING.

11. POSTING OF LY DAI NGUYEN AND VU DINH MANH APPROVED BY 69 VOTES.

12. POSTING OF LUU QUANG HONG AND NGUYEN MANH HAI APPROVED BY 62 DEPUTIES.

13. 67 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING NAMES OF TRUONG DINH DZU AND TRAN VAN CHIEU.

14. 77 VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING LIST OF TRAN VAN HUONG AND MAI THO TRUYEN.

15. CASE OF PHAM HUY CO AND LY QUOC SINH (LIST NUMBER 8) WAS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT FOUR DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS IN CO'S DOSSIER SHOWN FOUR DIFFERENT BIRTH DATES. MOREOVER, A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES DOUBTED THAT CO'S TIME SPENT ABROAD PRIOR TO 1963 REALLY COUNTED AS POLITICAL EXILE. SPECIAL COMMITTEE, WHICH INITIALLY TOOK NO POSITION ON THIS CASE, RECOMMENDED AFTER DEBATE THAT CO'S LIST BE POSTED THUS ALLOWING HIS CASE TO BE FURTHER EXAMINED BY CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. DEPUTIES APPROVED RECOMMENDATION BY 66 VOTES.

16. 74 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING LIST OF TRAN VAN LY AND HUYNH CONG DUONG.

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NOTE: ADVANCE COPY DELIVERED TO S/S-O JULY 1, 3:15PM

PASSED: WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, JULY 1, 3:15PM

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FINAL SECTION OF 2 SAIGON 83

17. 73 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING NAMES OF NGUYEN DINH LUYEN AND TRAN VAN THOAN.

18. 70 DEPUTIES WERE IN FAVOR OF POSTING LIST OF NGUYEN VAN HIEP (ALIAS NGUYEN HOA HIEP) AND NGUYEN THE TRUYEN.

19. LIST OF TRAN THUONG NHON AND NGUYEN VAN HUNG WAS ONLY ONE TO BE ELIMINATED BY NA. ON COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

55 DEPUTIES VOTED THAT NHON'S DOSSIER CONTAINED INSUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION TO WARRANT EVEN FIRST POSTING. (NHON SUBMITTED NEITHER A POLICE RECORD NOR A BIRTH CERTIFICATE WITH HIS APPLICATION.)

20. DEPUTIES VOTED ON POSTING SLATE OF GENERALS THIEU AND KY WITHOUT DEBATE. 62 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING THIS LIST.

21. POSTING OF VU KHONG KHANH/DUONG TRUNG DONG SLATE APPROVED BY 64 DEPUTIES.

22. 54 DEPUTIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF POSTING NAMES OF AU TRUONG THANH AND RUNNING-MATE VU VAN HUYEN. THERE WAS NO OVERT REACTION ON PART OF DEPUTIES WHEN RAPPURTEUR READ SYMBOL OF SLATE ("NO MORE BOMBS") AND ITS MOTTO ("CEASE FIRE"); BUT RELATIVELY LOW VOTE IN FAVOR OF POSTING THANH'S LIST PROBABLY REFLECTS RELUCTANCE ON PART OF SOME DEPUTIES TO ALLOW PROMOTER OF SUCH

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SIMPLISTIC PEACE THEME TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY. (COMMENT: THANH'S CASE LIKELY TO BE ONE OF MOST CONTROVERSIAL ONES WHEN REVIEWED BY CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL.)

23. CASE OF HOANG CHU NGOC AND TRAN VAN XUYEN TAKEN TO SECOND BALLOT BECAUSE 76 YEAR-OLD XUYEN DID NOT SUBMIT CERTIFICATE REGARDING DRAFT STATUS. ON SECOND BALLOT NA APPROVED POSTING OF THIS LIST BY 46 VOTES ON CONDITION THAT XUYEN OBTAIN SUCH A CERTIFICATE AND SUBMIT IT TO CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL.

24. POSTING OF LIST OF NGUYEN DINH QUAT AND TRAN CUU CHAU APPROVED BY 66 DEPUTIES.

25. HAVING COMPLETED THIS FIRST REVIEW, NA ADJOURNED AT 1315. AFTERNOON JULY 1, 17 LISTS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES POSTED OUTSIDE NA BUILDING. VOTERS AND CANDIDATES HAVE BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 6 TO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS TO NA SECRETARIAT WITH REGARD TO CANDIDATES' QUALIFICATIONS.

26. AFTERNOON JULY 1 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WERE INVITED TO ASSEMBLY TO BE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE, AND TO MEET THE PRESS. ATTENDANCE WAS OPTIONAL, AND NONE OF MAJOR CANDIDATES APPEARED. NGUYEN VAN NGAI CAME REPRESENTING HA THUC KY, AND NGUYEN VAN LOC REPRESENTED THE THIEU-KY SLATE. SUU, HUONG AND DUONG VAN MINH WERE UNREPRESENTED. LOC WAS IN AN EBULLIENT MOOD, PUTTING END TO RUMORS THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

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NOTE: PASSED SSO, WH, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA 3:35 p.m.

7/1/67

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